

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 29 PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT

1. COVERAGE OF THE FIRST FULL DAY OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT DOMINATED THE FRONT PAGES OF THE OCTOBER 29 NEW DELHI PRESS. TYPICAL OF THE LEAD HEADS WERE "LONG INDO-US TALKS TO END MISTRUST;" "GREAT POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE;" "NEW CHAPTER OF CLOSE RELATIONS BEGINS;" "INDO-US TALKS MAKE WAY FOR MUTUAL RESPECT, COOPERATION;" "INDO-US VIEWS ON PEACE COVERAGE;" "PACT ON INDO-US JOINT COMMISSION SIGNED." ALL BUT ONE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILIES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST PATRIOT, CARRIED FRONT PAGE PHOTOS OF THE SECRETARY WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI. THE PAPERS ALSO FEATURED PHOTOS OF THE JOINT COMMISSIONS SIGNING CEREMONY AND MRS. KISSINGER'S SHOPPING AND SIGHTSEEING TOURS. THE HINDI AND URDU DAILIES FEATURED COMPARABLE COVERAGE WITH THREE FRONT PAGE STORIES PLUS PICTURES BEING THE NORM. SEVERAL PAPERS CARRIED SUBSTANTIAL EXCERPTS OF THE SECRETARY'S ADDRESS TO THE INDIAN COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS AND FULL OR PARTIAL TEXTS OF THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE JOINT COMMISSION. MOST OF THE PAPERS CARRIED AT LEAST TWO FRONT PAGE STORIES ON THE SECRETARY'S ACTIVITY. A FEW CARRIED THREE. ABOUT HALF THE PAPERS RAN STORIES ASSERTING THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIME MINISTER GANDHI WOULD MEET SOON, ATTRIBUTING THIS STORY

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TO HINTS FROM BOTH SIDES.

2. THE TIMES OF INDIA LEAD STORY REPORTED THAT "BOTH DR. KISSINGER AND MR. Y.B. CHAVAN, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DESCRIBED THE JOINT COMMISSION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES SET UP TODAY AS AN IMPORTANT LANDMARK IN BILATERAL RELATIONS." THE HINDUSTAN TIMES SAID "THE SERIES OF TALKS HELD BY DR. HENRY KISSINGER, THE US SECRETARY OF STATE, WITH PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI AND FOREIGN MINISTER Y B CHAVAN AND THEIR AIDES ARE SAID TO PUT THE TWO GREATEST DEMOCRACIES OF THE WORLD ON A CLOSE COOPERATION COURSE, NOT ONLY IN BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL-TECHNICAL FIELDS BUT ALSO ON VITAL ISSUES OF GLOBAL PEACE AND PROGRESS." A SUB-HEAD IN THE SAME PAPER READ "FAMILY TIFF IS OVER." THE STATESMAN OPENED ITS LEAD STORY, "TWO ROUNDS OF TALKS BETWEEN MRS. GANDHI AND DR. KISSINGER PRECEDED BY A TWO HOUR MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND MR. CHAVAN, ON THE OPENING DAY OF INDO-US TALKS HERE TODAY APPEARED TO HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR MATURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN THE WORDS OF SENIOR US OFFICIALS, BY RECOGNIZING THE DISTANCE CREATED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BY PAST MISTAKES AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS, THE TWO SIDES HAD BEEN ABLE TO PUT THESE BEHIND THEM AND TO OPEN EXTREMELY GREAT POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE."

3. THE NATIONAL HERALD REPORTED, "THE INDO-US TALKS HERE TODAY WERE MARKED BY A CLEAR ASSURANCE THAT AMERICA HAD NO DESIRE TO INTERVENE IN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SUB-CONTINENT, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED BY ANY CONSIDERATIONS OF BALANCE OF POWER AND THAT IT WOULD GENUINELY LIKE TO SEE INDIA PLAY ITS ROLE IN PROMOTING STABILITY AND GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS IN THE AREA." THE INDIAN EXPRESS OPENED ITS LEAD STORY, "THE LONG NIGHT OF INDO-AMERICAN BICKERINGS APPEARED TODAY TO HAVE ENDED IN A NEW DAWN OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THOUGH SPECIFIC ISSUE HAVE YET TO EMERGE IN AN AGREED FORMULA. MOTHERLAND REPORTED,"THE TWO DECADES OF MISTRUST AND RECRIMINATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES APPEARED TO GIVE WAY TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER AND MEANINGFUL UNCLASSIFIED

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AT THE END OF THE SECOND DAY OF SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGERS VISIT TO INDIA TODAY."

4. THE URDU LANGUAGE PRATAP SAID, "THE US WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT--KISSINGER'S ASSURANCE TO MRS. GANDHI." EDITORIALY THE PAPER COMMENTED THAT DR. KISSINGER HAS REALIZED THE POLICY OF TILT TOWARDS

PAKISTAN HAS DONE MUCH HARM TO THE U.S.;
HIS ASSURANCES OF US SUPPORT FOR THE SIMLA ACCORD IS
WELCOME. THE URDU DAILY MILAP FOUND THAT BOTH DR.
KISSINGER AND INDIAN LEADERS ARE STRIVING TO
REMOVE PAST MISUNDERSTANDINGS. IF THEY SUCCEED AND THE
US LEADERS CHANGE THEIR POLICIES THERE WOULD BE NO
CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO LARGEST DEMOCRACIES OF THE
WORLD.

5. IN CONTRAST TO THE REST OF THE DAILY PRESS, THE
COMMUNIST PATRIOT AND HINDI LANGUAGE COUNTERPART JANYUG
SOUGHT ASSIDUOUSLY TO FIND SOUR GRAPES. THE PATRIOT'S
LEAD SAID, "PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI IN THE TWO
ROUNDS OF TALKS SHE HAD ON MONDAY WITH US SECRETARY
OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER IS BELIEVED TO HAVE
EMPHASIZED THAT THOUGH INDIA WAS VITALLY INTERESTED
IN IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., A
BEGINNING COULD ONLY BE MADE IF THE AREA OF AGREEMENT
AND DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS CLEARLY
DEFINED. THE FIRM AND FRANK POSITION TAKEN BY MRS.
GANDHI STOOD AS COMPLETE CONTRAST TO THE DIPLOMATIC
PLATITUDES AND GENERALITIES VOICED BY THE AMERICAN
DIPLOMAT.

6. ALL INDIA RADIO GAVE EXTENSIVE RADIO AND TELEVISION
COVERAGE TO THE OCTOBER 28 EVENTS. APPROXIMATELY HALF
OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO THE INDIAN COUNCIL ON
WORLD AFFAIRS WAS TELEVISED. MOYNIHAN

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